

Held at the University of Warwick Students' Union

12:00pm 16th April 2005

Present: - Martyn Belwood (Chair), Alex Bazin (Secretary), Representatives of Southampton, Birmingham, Warwick, Nottingham, Manchester, London and Loughborough Universities.

Apologies: - Oxford, Plymouth, Bath, Aberdeen

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

Secretary's Report

The secretary gave a brief verbal report. He repeated his plea for more content for the website and for clubs to provide term and competition dates as soon as they were available. He apologised for the interruption to email service due to the change to a new server but believed this was now working properly.

Chair's Report

The chair gave a verbal report. He expressed his happiness that the organisation has grown, and that our recognition within the RLSS has grown. The chair thanked Dan Graham from Manchester for his hard work on the rules manual and was pleased that after the rules revision meeting things seemed to have settled down.

The chair reported that Edinburgh, Leeds and Bournemouth Universities are all looking at setting up clubs, he is also pleased that Bath and Swansea are doing well. He felt it important that despite their continuing success the incoming chair should revisit the support arrangements for new clubs.

The chair finished by stating that BUSA was still some way off, but that it was important to continue our progression towards this. He added his congratulations to London for winning the league, Birmingham for winning the nationals, and Warwick, Southampton and Loughborough for doing well at the World Championships.

Constitutional Changes

None were presented.

Competition Schedule 2004/2005

A number of dates were given for next year's competitions; though there is still space for the proposed competitions at Bath and Swansea. Nottingham suggested that they could move to the first term if necessary and clubs were asked to check the website regularly for the latest schedule. to check dates on the website regularly.

Competitions & Rules

The rules forgot that most of our competitions were held in 25m pools; the following changes were approved: gates are placed at 12.5m and tumble turns are permitted; in the medley relay only the first three competitors may tumble and the casualty must not start kicking after the turn until they have been passed by the fourth competitor; in the manikin relay all changes are at the wall.

Warwick asked that flags were were up for the swimming events, this was **approved**. London asked that warm-up time was provided before the swim and tow, it was noted that this was not always possible but was preferred.

There were complaints that first aid kits were containing extra items such as sweets and water. **Action** - incoming chair to look at a standardised kit, bearing in mind concerns over cost and size.

The use of glasses in the incident was discussed at length; both in terms of the ILS rules stating that they may be used at the competitors own risk and the rules of many of the pools used for competitions. It was **agreed** that the glasses box may be carried and that for split incidents two or more boxes may be needed.

London were worried about the separation of incidents and isolation. It was noted that clubs tried to separate incidents as best as possible and that competitors were trusted not to abuse this.

Concern was expressed that it was not always clear who was and was not in incidents. It should also be clear where the incident physically starts. The rule about judges not training once they have set an incident has worked well this year. It was felt that university incidents have a unique flavour which is best retained using judges within BULSCA. **Action** - Incoming chair to co-ordinate rotation of incident writers and encourage RLSS participation.

Clubs pulling out of competitions at the last minute are causing financial problems and preventing other teams taking part. It was **agreed** to impose stricter deadlines and that if clubs pulled teams within 48 hours of a competition they would be responsible for 50% of the entry fees unless their space could be filled.

It was **agreed** that non-league teams should not be excluded from the results and medals announced after competitions.

Judges

The issue of consistency of judges advice in incidents and speed events was raised together with the difficulty of getting trained bodies. It was felt that the guidance to bodies from judges must be improved. It was also decided that competitors should be told whether phones are 'real' or simulated during the captains briefing. **Action** - Incoming chair to monitor this issue, especially relating to smaller clubs.

Scoring

There was concern over the consistency of incidents and whether too much pressure was being put on a single event. The possibility of reducing the SERC to double weighting and also a separate speed event league. The committee felt that speed events should stay, after which a heated debate about swim clubs ensued. It was **agreed** that the SERC would be reduced to a double weighting if both wet and dry incidents were held, otherwise the triple weighting would remain.

The committee were supportive of using Simon Harrisons scoring system for all competitions. Warwick asked if it was possible to get it unlocked for trouble shooting. It will be placed on the website shortly.

University records were welcomed as a good idea. **Action** - Incoming chair to set this up.

The chair thanked clubs for their patience with results this year, he noted that some systemic problems have been overcome but that concerns still remained. It was **agreed** that results must be confirmed within 28 days.

Speeds

Loughborough - Everyone is supportive but last time people seemed unwilling to pay. The cost of the pool is high and Loughborough run at a loss which is a real problem. Relative to the number of competitors the cost isn't particularly high. Birmingham

mentioned that everyone was very pleased with the last competition which should make it easier to recruit for this year. The proposals for next year are that entries may be made from the 1st of May with a £15 non-refundable deposit. Entries will close at the end of October. Priority will be given to university teams but it is hoped that more invitational teams will also participate. Individuals may enter at £15 each and combine to make scratch teams if they wish.

Southampton - are hoping to hold a short course speed event but there has been little interest. The proposed date is the 18th of June, clubs need to let Carolyn know as soon as possible if they are interested.

Election of New Chair

Tom Mecrow (Loughborough) and Stuart Richardson (Warwick) both gave brief speeches. After a vote Stuart Richardson was duely elected.

Development & Promotion

Manchester suggested that trainers from big clubs should travel to other clubs in order to help out. It was noted that the RLSS were not always helpful in developing small clubs and that there was a need to break into the 'clique' to gain more recognition.

Loughborough encouraged clubs to compete in local competitions.

Birmingham asked for a "table of recognition" giving the average placing over the season; this would provide some recognition to smaller clubs. Warwick also suggested that C & D teams should not block B teams for scoring; this was **agreed**.

The idea of hosting fresher training sessions regionally was suggested. It was also felt that better use must be made of the page in Lifesavers. The chair was asked to email branches and AU presidents to get more clubs involved. Clubs were asked to submit designs for logos for University Lifesaving.

It was felt that the London meeting worked well this year and that this should happen again in London next year. The chair also proposed working groups on specific issues.

Any Other Business

The new competition directory and www.lifesaving-sport.org were advertised clubs should co-ordinate their adverts through Dan Graham and Alex Bazin. Methods for

promoting clubs at freshers fairs were discussed; ideas included: videos & photos; equipment; and poster tours of student residences.

The committee thanked Warwick for hosting the meeting and Martyn for his hard work this year.

There being no further business the chair declared the meeting closed at 3:50pm.

The location and date of the next meeting will be advertised in due course.